

RIM COUNTRY

Visitors Guide

*The Heart of
Arizona*



PAYSON · PINE · STRAWBERRY · STAR VALLEY · CHRISTOPHER CREEK



Amon Builders, Inc.

General Building Contractor

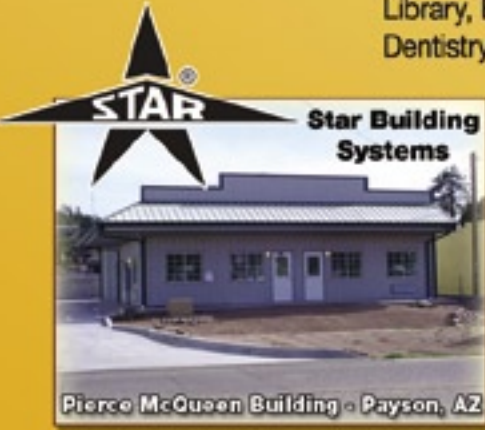


Amon Builders, Inc. was established in 1989 as a General Building Contractor Holding licenses in both B-01 Commercial and Residential Building. Mike has been in construction for over 40 years, and doing Business in Payson and the surrounding areas of Show Low, Pinetop, Snowflake, & Holbrook for the last 20 years. We offer competitive Pricing while maintaining quality workmanship.

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Payson Public Library
Payson, AZ



Pierce McQueen Building - Payson, AZ



Ponderosa Market - Pine, AZ



Meldroth Residence - Payson, AZ



Tonto Oaks Apartments - Payson, AZ



Spoor Residence - Payson, AZ



Payson Police Facility - Payson, AZ

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*Trailhead social memberships must be purchased. Optional golf course memberships are available. Prices subject to change without notice. Please consult your sales representative if you have any questions. Obtain a property Report or its equivalent, required by federal law, and read it before signing anything. No federal agency has judged the value, if any, of this property. Not registered with the New Jersey Real Estate Commission. This is not an offering to New York, New Jersey or California residents or any state where prohibited by law. No offer to sell or lease may be accepted prior to issuance of the Final Arizona Subdivision Public Report. The California Department of Real Estate has not inspected, examined or qualified this offering. Willowflower Ridge subdivision is being served groundwater by the Town of Payson. The master developer has chosen not to demonstrate a 100-year adequate water supply. The criteria for physical, legal and continuous availability as set forth in A.A.C. 912-19-717 were not demonstrated and proof of adequate water quality as set forth in A.A.C. 12-05-718 was not provided. Therefore, the Department must find the water supply to be inadequate. For additional information please contact the Arizona Department of Water Resources at 16021 417-2465.

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The business members of the Rim Country Regional Chamber of Commerce, its Board of Directors, the professional staff, and the volunteers at the Payson Visitor Center welcome you to Arizona Rim Country. Our goal is to exceed your expectations.

We serve the towns of Payson and Star Valley, and the communities of Christopher Creek, Pine, and Strawberry, which comprise the true “Heart of Arizona.” As you will find, and so many have told us, we are about the friendliest area in all of Arizona.

Payson is the rodeo capitol of Arizona. The 124th Annual World’s Oldest Continuous Rodeo will be held at the Town of Payson’s Multi-Event Center August 15-17, 2008. This Rodeo is a PRCA sanctioned event that includes many of the best contestants in the world participating for prize money and points. Another PRCA rodeo is held in the springtime in the Multi-Event Center. The Town of Payson also hosts the Miss Rodeo Arizona Pageant (sponsored by the Payson Pro Rodeo Committee) and an excellent High School Rodeo.

Arizona Rim Country is multi-dimensional. Hiking, camping, hunting, fishing in tiny creeks or large lakes, boating, rock hounding, and mountain biking are available within minutes. Photographers and hunters will find wildlife everywhere and bird watchers have endless opportunities. We are a photographer’s dream destination with blue skies and a true four-season environment.

You can be part of our community by simply enjoying any of the four mild seasons. We have affordable golf, and large family parks and lakes for visitors of all ages. Art and craft shows, as well as festivals, abound. Since you are our guest, please ask any of our volunteers for directions or referrals. We will do our best to make your visit to Arizona Rim Country memorable. 🌄

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**RIM COUNTRY REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

P.O. Box 1380
Payson, AZ 85547
p 928.474.4515 / 800.672.9766 • f 928.474.8812
www.rimcountrychamber.com

PROJECT MANAGER Andrea Capan
CREATIVE DIRECTOR Chris Picknally
GRAPHIC DESIGN Terry Caber Jr.
AD SALES Marcia Daugherty, Sue Finley,
Robert Hartney, Kevin Holler

(cover photo provided by Chris Picknally)

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COMMUNITY Profile

The Town of Payson is situated at an elevation of 5,000 feet. While here, you might visit our two parks. Rumsey Park features a new library, sports fields, a large ramada for social gatherings, a seasonal community pool, and a park created exclusively for dogs. Green Valley Park features a lake for fishing and boating as well as a walking path around the lake, a playground, and picnic ramadas. It is also the site of the Rim Country Museum and replication of Zane Grey's cabin. In the summer, free concerts are held each Saturday evening in the bandstand area with outdoor lawn seating. To the north are the communities of Pine and Strawberry where you will find antique shops, walking tours of historic buildings, and a general atmosphere of small town friendliness. Towards the east is the town of Star Valley and the community of Christopher Creek where you might see impromptu art sales and beautiful flowing trout streams.

There are four distinct seasons in Arizona Rim Country. Summer is always about 15 degrees cooler than metropolitan Phoenix. Spring and fall are normally in the 80's and winter is often around 45 degrees or higher. Because of the four perfect seasons, you will see major displays of seasonal flowers, green trees everywhere and vibrant fall colors.

Payson is the major town in Arizona Rim Country with a population of approximately 16,000. It has been growing at an average rate of 3.5% per year for over 25 years. It has been rated as one of the most desirable communities to retire to because of weather, amenities and overall friendly residents, and was named the "Best Small Town in Arizona" for 2008 by the Official Best of Division of Media World USA. The other communities, though unincorporated, have governmental services provided by Gila County. Collectively, Arizona Rim Country has a trade population of well over 35,000 residents.

If you need more reasons to visit or become one of our newest residents, call the Chamber of Commerce. We can be reached at 1-800-6-Payson (1-800-672-9766). Check out our website at www.rimcountrychamber.com.

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN OUR REGION

Arizona Rim Country is dominated by the tourism, retirement, retail and vacation industries. There is growing dependence on manufacturing and service firms, government, and health-related facilities. All of the industries are sensitive to the unique quality of life that makes this area so desirable.

Cooler weather, terrific air quality, and a wide variety of outdoor activities cause many Arizona residents and visitors to migrate to Arizona Rim Country. Countless numbers of migratory birds, nature trails to hike, and refreshing afternoon rains beckon everyone to "relax and enjoy yourself."

Some of the major employers in the area are Payson Unified School District, the Tonto Apache Tribe's Mazatzal Casino, Payson Regional Medical Center, Northern Gila County Government, the Town of Payson, and Wal-Mart SuperCenter. Small manufacturers and

Arizona Rim Country is located in the heart of Arizona. If you are driving from the metropolitan Phoenix area, you can reach Payson and the other Rim communities on a new, scenic, four-lane highway (State Highway 87). In less than 75 minutes you will travel from the hustle and bustle of a huge city to the peace and quiet of paradise. Pure air, massive recreational opportunities and friendliness will greet you at the Chamber and throughout Arizona Rim Country.



Chris Pickrally

hundreds of entrepreneurial businesses abound, and there are two industrial parks available in the Payson area. Additional sites are scattered throughout Arizona Rim Country.

Internet firms and telemarketing-based businesses are making an impact, too. In addition, Arizona Rim Country is known as a growing arts and antique retailing destination.

The Payson Regional Economic Development Corporation, The Office of Tourism, and the Rim Country Regional Chamber of Commerce work actively with new and existing businesses to provide high quality business and employment opportunities for area residents. There is a progressive attitude here that every business with a need or a concern will be provided with a resolution and all necessary support.

We will put you in touch with the best person or organization to help you locate the right piece of property, recruit your workforce, find necessary funding and promote your endeavor. Call the Chamber (928) 474-4515 or visit our website at www.rimcountrychamber.com.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

For the new businesses coming into Arizona Rim Country, we offer a high-caliber, hard working, and educated labor force. Our retirees are an untapped resource, as well.

Gila County Community College is primed and ready to work with any employer to harden a workforce and train employees for a specific job. Payson and Gila County are willing to make it possible for a new business to open as soon as possible, with support from the Payson Regional Economic Development Corporation, the Small Business Development Center, and the Rim Country Regional Chamber of Commerce.

FINANCIAL

There are numerous full-service banks, mortgage firms, and credit unions in Arizona Rim Country waiting to work with you. Any new or existing area business eligible for assistance in financing fixed assets may work with the Finance and Administration Division of the Arizona Department of Commerce. For additional information on private bond activity, industrial development, and town, county, state or federal assistance, please call the Payson Regional Economic Department Corporation (PREDC) at 928-468-6659, or go online at www.paysonecon.org.

WORKFORCE

Arizona Rim Country has an abundance of dependable and hard-working men and women to staff your business. There are many residents who retired early and others that want to put to use the skill levels for which they were trained. Gila County Community College can design a specific skills course to mold specialized workers for your unique business need. With the outstanding quality of life and varied prices for housing, recruitment and retention of employees are normally high.

WHO LIVES IN ARIZONA RIM COUNTRY?

The average age of the population of Arizona Rim Country is about 53. Approximately 50% of the residents are 55 years or older. There is definitely a shift towards older citizens. Half of the population is made up of children, high school students, young adults and men and women in their third or fourth career. Overall, Arizona Rim Country mirrors the more progressive communities of America.

For the most part, almost everyone you meet will be a person that likes to enjoy the outdoors. They fish, hike, hunt, exercise and even cross-country ski. Most have used our community library recently, are active voters, are probably involved in politics on the local scene, and give often to charities, fundraising events and churches.

The price of housing is steadily going up. There is no better time than right now to buy that dream home, vacation cabin, or lot. The average price for a resale home is well above \$160,000 and rising. New construction tends to be high because of additional features, escalating lot values, and demand for new homes. Food is priced at roughly the same level as one might find in metropolitan Phoenix. Large firms own the local grocery stores, thus our pricing levels reflect their other stores around the state. You might find a slight increase in prices for clothing, gasoline, building supplies and the like as there is a true cost associated with transporting those items an additional 90 miles from the Phoenix area. Overall, though, the "out-go index" is just a bit higher than you might pay in metropolitan Phoenix.

If you need highly specific information concerning any aspect of census tract data or statistical information collected by the state, county, or Town of Payson, please call the Chamber at 1-800-6-PAYSON (1-800-672-9766). We will assist you in contacting the proper agency or person.

POPULATION

For over twenty-five years, the average increase in population in Arizona Rim Country area has been about 3.5%. As with any community, there have been both periods of little growth, and others of rapid expansion. Since most of the property in Arizona Rim Country is owned by the Federal Government (forests) or the Tonto Apache Indians (reservation), there will never be unbridled growth. It is projected that Payson and the other nearby communities may eventually grow by 40% if all available home site lots are developed.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Basic Information

Founded	1884
Incorporated	1973
Elevation	4,982
Located	Gila County
Distance to	Phoenix: 93 miles Tucson: 183 miles
Nearby Highways	Hwy SR 87 Hwy SR 260

Populations

Payson	16,742
Gila County	56,885

Principal Economic Activities

The local economy is dominated by the tourism, retirement, and construction industries, with a growing emphasis on manufacturing and service firms. Also encouraged is light industry and high-tech operations compatible with the community's "High Quality of Life." The Payson Regional Economic Development Corporation works with new and existing businesses to provide high quality business and employment opportunities for area residents. It assists both local and relocating firms.

Property Tax Rate

Elementary/High Schools	4.80
City/Fire District	0.34
Countywide	5.01
Total	10.15

U.S. estimate of population retired is 23%
Analysis: Professionals and managers typically comprise the largest segment of a community's work force in most U.S. surveys. The Rim Country and Gila County's high incidence of retirees reflect a pattern common throughout the southwest and most other Sun Belt communities.

COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

In addition to the communication resources from the rest of the state, most national publications are available for home delivery or stand sales. Internet providers, cable and satellite television service, digital phone connection, and fiber optic services are available in Arizona Rim Country.

For a small community, sources of information in Arizona Rim Country are relatively extensive. We are served by three newspapers, the Payson Roundup which publishes twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays, the Rim Gazette which is published on Thursdays, and the Arizona Patriot which is published monthly. We also have three local radio stations, KMOG-AM, KRIM-FMLP, KCMA-FMLP.

Many residents also subscribe to one of the Phoenix-area dailies, The Arizona Republic and the East Valley Tribune. Television offerings include all major networks via local network-affiliates and independent stations in Phoenix and Prescott, an ever-growing range of cable selections, and satellite service by all major providers.

MEDICAL

Payson Regional Medical Center is a 44-bed facility with a full service emergency department. The Hospital provides a level of care that you would expect from a community of well over a hundred thousand residents but it administers that care as though it was a community hospital. PRMC will be an important asset for your employees, your family and you. Please refer to Page 12 for more in-depth information.

EDUCATION

Payson has three public and three private elementary schools, middle school, charter high school, public high school, private high school and a community college. Pine and Strawberry have one elementary school.

Northern Arizona University, in partnership with Gila Community College, offers undergraduate and graduate programs.

Gila County Community College
210 N. Mud Springs Road..... 468-8039

Frontier Elementary School
1000 E. Frontier Street..... 472-2052

WEATHER

	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. High (°F)	Precip. (inches)
January	24.6	53.8	2.2
February	26.6	57.4	2.0
March	29.8	61.9	2.3
April	35.0	70.2	1.1
May	41.7	79.2	0.5
June	49.6	89.3	0.4
July	58.3	92.4	2.7
August	57.4	89.6	3.1
September	50.4	85.0	1.9
October	40.3	74.9	1.7
November	30.0	62.3	1.6
December	24.5	54.5	1.9
Yearly Avg.	39.0	72.5	21.5

Julia Randall Elementary School
902 W. Main Street..... 474-2353

Payson Center for Success
501 S. McLane Road..... 472-2011

Payson Community Christian Private School
500 S. Mud Springs Rd. 474-8050

Payson Elementary School
500 E. Rancho Road 474-5882

Payson High School
514 W. Wade Lane..... 474-2233

Payson Public School District
514 W. Wade Lane..... 474-2070

Pine/Strawberry Elementary School
N. Randall Drive - Pine 476-3283

Rim Country Middle School
304 S. Meadow Street 474-4511

Shelby Charter School
Tonto Village..... 478-4706

Young Public Schools
Highway 288, Young 462-3244

UTILITIES

Electricity

APS 474-2204

Propane

Semstream 474-2294

Matlock Gas 474-1193

Northern Energy 474-3334

Telephone

Qwest..... 800-244-1111

Water

Town of Payson 474-5242

Brooke Utilities 800-270-6084

Sewer

Northern Gila County

Sanitary District 474-5257

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- LTC Insurance

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www.rimcountryhealth.com
807 W. Longhorn Rd., Payson, AZ 85541

Call
Russ Goddard



The Staff & Elected Leaders
of the Town of Payson

WELCOME YOU

(928) 474-5242

Web Site: www.ci.payson.az.us
Email: ssmith@ci.payson.az.us
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Christopher Creek
928-478-4221

Pine
928-476-3433

Strawberry
928-476-3000

Heber/Overgaard
928-535-3244

Young
928-462-3530

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Bake for: 1 hour in the 38 degree sauna and cool for a half-hour in our sparkling swimming pool.

Enjoy: Homespun hospitality and down-home cooking in the Zane Grey Steakhouse with scrumptious nightly specials, featuring USDA Choice slow-roasted Prime Rib Saturdays & Sundays.

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On the banks of Tomco Creek

The Heart of ARIZONA

PAYSON • PINE • STRAWBERRY • STAR VALLEY • CHRISTOPHER CREEK

The first inhabitants of Arizona Rim Country were the Mogollons, a prehistoric people that mysteriously disappeared. They were followed by the Tonto Apache Indians, and then by white soldiers, pioneers, prospectors, and ranchers.

In those early days, the small, dusty town of Payson was little more than a collection of small establishments and saloons where settlers bought supplies, and cowboys let off steam.

In 1878, a fort was built high on a hill just southeast of what is today Pioneer Cemetery, taking advantage of the red sandstone rocks left from an ancient pueblo. It was called Fort McDonald after a local resident instrumental in its construction.

Whenever danger was present, an alarm sent residents scurrying up the hill to “fort up.” They often stayed in the fort several days, with single men sent out on scouting missions to gauge the status of the threat. When the “all clear” was given, residents went back home and resumed their lives.

The Town of Payson is the largest community in Arizona Rim Country. Up the Beeline (Hwy 87) about 15 miles, the communities of Pine and Strawberry are tucked right under the Rim in lushly wooded settings. Higher than Payson’s 5,000 foot altitude, Pine stands at 5,500 feet and Strawberry at 5,800 feet. Like Payson, they are rapidly growing vacation and retirement centers.

Pine was initially settled in 1879 by the Mormon Church. Because of its higher altitude, it is not unusual in the springtime for vegetable gardens to be sprouting while the Rim is still covered with deep snow. Pine boasts a growing community of artists who are attracted by the brilliant diversity of Mother Nature.

The hamlet of Strawberry lies just three miles northwest of Pine. Visitors who take a brief drive up Highway 87 to the top of the Rim and look back on Strawberry Valley are in for a stunning view. One traveler compared the experience to “standing on the edge of the earth.”

“Downtown” Pine and Strawberry feature a charming collection of antique shops, old farmhouses, restaurants, and specialty stores. Visitors can take a walking tour of historic buildings in the two communities, including Arizona’s oldest standing schoolhouse.

The area is also a paradise for hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders. From the Pine Trailhead, a wide variety of outstanding trails can be accessed, most offering spectacular views of the Rim above and the mountain ranges below.



A scenic alternate route to the top of the Rim is Arizona Highway 260 through the Town of Star Valley and communities of Kohl's Ranch and Christopher Creek.

Kohl's Ranch is one of the ever-popular recreation spots in Arizona Rim Country. Eighteen miles east of Payson, this rustic resort area was once just a tiny post office, a store, a bar, and a dance hall with a floor made of wood planks. "We used to go up there and dance on Saturday nights," one old timer recalls. "There was a fiddler and a piano player. You'd dance until the dust was so bad you couldn't breathe. Then everybody would go outside. The dust would settle, and they'd start the music and you'd go back inside." Nearby Camp Tontozona, owned by Arizona State University, hosts

popular places in the country for second homes as well as ranked as one of the fastest-growing retirement communities in the nation. Arizona Rim Country offers what many are looking for when they relocate: a moderate climate, a rural setting with easy access to metropolitan areas, quality housing, recreational amenities, accessible health care, low crime rates, and employment opportunities.

Our temperature is an average 15 degrees cooler than the desert, and the area receives an average of about 21 inches of precipitation. The two or three large snowfalls that normally occur below the Rim usually melt quickly, but the snowpack on top of the Rim can last the entire winter and well into spring. In July and August,

Rim Country since it sits on the edge of the world's largest stand of Ponderosa pines.

Local attractions include the Tonto Natural Bridge State Park (the largest travertine bridge in the world), Shoofly Indian Archaeological Site, Rim Country Museum and the replication of the Zane Grey Cabin, Whispering Hope Ranch, Tonto Fish Hatchery, The Ranch at Fossil Creek, Pine-Strawberry Museum, Fossil Creek Trailhead, the Strawberry Schoolhouse (the oldest schoolhouse in Arizona), and the 45-acre Green Valley Park. Maps for hiking are available at the Payson Ranger Station. Three streams, stocked with trout, are within a twenty-five minute drive of Payson. On top of the Mogollon Rim is a chain of trout lakes. To the south of Payson is Roosevelt Lake, full of



Chris Picknally

the ASU Sun Devil football training camp every August.

Christopher Creek is a small, lushly wooded community 22 miles east of Payson. Named after a settler of French origin, Isadore Christopher, who brought his mail order bride here in 1880, the area offers rustic cabins, great dining, wonderful fishing and outstanding hiking. Nearby are the trailheads to the Highline Trail.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Here in the shadows of the Mogollon Rim, the residents of the communities of Arizona Rim Country enjoy a quality of life that ranks among the best anywhere. Payson has been listed as one of the most

moist air from Mexico collides with the Rim creating a rainy monsoon-type season complete with lighting shows that are absolutely stunning. Arizona Rim Country offers a near perfect, four season climate!

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

The beautiful pine country around Payson, Pine, Strawberry, Star Valley and Christopher Creek, as well as numerous streams and lakes, offers many recreational opportunities and facilities. Forest Service campgrounds on the 7,500 foot Mogollon Rim are plentiful. Fishermen enjoy the abundant trout streams, and elk, deer, turkey, javalina, antelope, bear, and mountain lion hunting is permitted. Outdoor enthusiasts love Arizona

RIM COUNTRY is named after one of Arizona's two most dominant landforms, the Mogollon Rim (the other landform is the Grand Canyon). Rising to a height of 7,500 feet a few miles north of Payson, this massive 200 mile escarpment cuts a wide swath through "The Heart of Arizona." In addition to Payson at 5,000 feet, Arizona Rim Country includes the progressively higher communities of Star Valley, Pine, Strawberry, and Christopher Creek and a number of smaller outlying communities and villages.

bass and crappie.

Themed festivals are planned for many of the weekends and art shows can be found throughout the area. Come and check out the Spring Rodeo in Payson, a classic car show along Main Street, the Strawberry Festival in early June, free concerts during the summer in Green Valley Park, the Annual World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo in August, the Electric Light Parade, and various lighting ceremonies throughout December. Since there are so many events throughout the year, a constantly updated calendar of events is available at the Chamber's Visitor Center.

Scenic drives throughout Arizona Rim Country abound. The Mogollon Rim Road (part of the historic General Crook Military

Road) follows the edge of the breathtaking Mogollon Rim. Beneath the Rim is the Control Road where you will see evidence of a 24,000 acre fire evolving into one of the best stands of oak and native grasses in all of Arizona. For fall colors, you will be directed to areas showcasing crimson oaks, yellow aspens, dusty white sycamores and riotous grape vines.

RECREATION

Other towns may have woods, lakes and mountains, but nobody else has the Mogollon Rim! Technically, it's known as an escarpment, as opposed to a canyon. But, together the Mogollon Rim and the Grand Canyon constitute Arizona's two most awe-inspiring landforms.

Formed 600 million years ago, the 7,500 foot high, 200 mile long "Rim" was named after Juan Ignacio Flores Mogollon, governor of New Mexico in the early 1700s when the area, which then included Arizona, was under Spanish rule.

Perhaps the words of Western novelist Zane Grey, who had a cabin in Arizona Rim Country, come closest to capturing the Rim's magnificence:

"Lucy looked up, to be stunned by the towering, overpowering bulk at the Rim, red and gold, with its black-fringed crown, bright and beautiful in the westering sun. She gazed backward, down over a grand sweep of the forest, rolling and ridging away to the far-flung peaks." *Under the Tonto Rim.*

Because the Rim has been largely preserved as national forest, it remains much as Zane Grey described it. In addition to 239 species of birds, including eagles, hawks, and ravens, it is home to Rocky Mountain elk, both mule and whitetail deer, black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, fox, javalina, and coyote.

Despite the wondrous diversity of the creatures with whom we share Arizona Rim Country, it is a land big enough to accommodate recreationalists of all persuasions.

From hikers to families with picnics, bird watchers to campers, trout fishing experts to kids with bobbers, and hearty backpackers to nature photographers... Arizona Rim Country has what you are looking for. Come and be a guest in our backyard – the Heart of Arizona – and partake of what we enjoy each day.



Tonto Natural Bridge State Park *Chris Picknally*

LODGING

Payson, Pine, Strawberry, Star Valley and Christopher Creek collectively boast fine motels, hotels, bed & breakfast retreats and rustic lodges with a total of over 600 rooms. Many offer in-room fireplaces, as well as pools and spas. Some accommodations have spas in the room, spas in climate-controlled quarters or spas with snow at the edges and a billion stars overhead.

For those guests that enjoy recreational vehicle living, many parks are scattered throughout the area. For the more daring, hundreds of campsites are close to the five communities. "Dry camping" is another option that can be enjoyed by simply choosing the best site available in the millions of acres of National Forest.

Meeting facilities are available for small groups and large conventions. Food can be prepared on site or catered to your special event. Many fine restaurants in Arizona Rim Country will gladly accommo-

date your particular group or defer to your specialized needs.

Please refer to the accommodations that are listed in the Lodging Guide found on pages 28 and 29.

GAMING

You will find the latest in high-tech video and reel-to-reel machines at the newly remodeled Mazatzal Hotel and Casino. Located in the Tonto Apache Reservation, just south of Payson, the Casino offers live poker and blackjack, 150 seat bingo hall and a cozy keno parlor.

The Casino offers more than gambling. Go to the popular Apache Spirits Sports Bar and the Cedar Ridge Restaurant. The Casino offers a number of 'stay and play' packages that combine lodging, meals and fun. They offer a video arcade, free round-trip shuttle service from Payson and Star Valley, as well as hometown hospitality. Stop by the gift shop for authentic treasures.

ARTS/CULTURE

One of the most exciting developments in Arizona Rim Country in recent years has been the emergence of a vibrant arts and cultural scene.

Arizona Rim Country's burgeoning art community is reflected in the galleries throughout the area, and by an increasing number of world-famous artists who have chosen to live and work in this inspirational setting.

In addition, the Payson Art League, with over 100 members, offers workshops by accomplished artists, trips to places of artistic interest, and open-house visits to studios of member artists. Juried exhibits are held twice a year.

The Pine-Strawberry Arts & Crafts Guild sponsors a series of two-day Mountain Arts & Crafts Festivals. Check with the Chamber's Visitor Center and calendar of events for dates. The Guild also maintains an arts & crafts room during the spring, summer, and fall months where visitors can view and purchase the work of its outstanding member artists.

Other events that lend credence to our growing reputation as an arts and cultural enclave include our annual fiddler's and western heritage festivals, the Tonto Community Concert Association series, Payson's Concert Under the Stars series and other cultural events held at the community college.

The Rim Country Museum, surrounded by three lakes and rolling hills of Green Valley Park, is a true museum complex of historical interest. The facility includes the first U.S. Forest Ranger Station and Residence in Payson, the 1905 Sam Haight cabin, a bronze memorial to our brave firefighters and a replica of the historic two-story Herron Ho-

tel (known as the Hilton of Payson until it burned to the ground in 1918). The museum displays exhibits describing the human stories of prehistoric and historic times of Arizona Rim Country. In the museum you can also experience some of the memorabilia of Zane Grey, and reminisce about forgotten times. For shoppers, there's a well-stocked gift shop full of books, collectibles and remembrances. Call the museum at 928-474-8392.

In Pine, about 16 miles north of Payson, stands the Pine Museum. Housed in what was once a Mormon Church, the museum offers a look back at the settlers that homesteaded and pushed cattle where virgin forest once stood. There are many displays and items of the latter part of the 19th century, and artifacts of the earliest settlers – the American Indians. Be sure to look for the beautiful display of the Tonto Apache Indian dolls and cradleboards. Please call 928-476-3547 for hours.

Finally, the Payson Public Library is located in a 15,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility at Rumsey Park. The library has a special room just for children, a coffee bar and internet connections. Check out their new magazine area and resale book store also.

SHOPPING

Recreation means different things to different folks, and if you prefer yours with a roof overhead, Arizona Rim Country offers many options. Shopping is a perennial favorite, and the merchants in Arizona Rim Country offer a diverse and unique shopping experience. Choices include a large selection of antique shops, art galleries, craft shops, quilt shop, and a candle fac-

tory with a large gift shop. There are also many specialty and hand-crafted items made by local artisans available in quaint shops throughout the area.

AIRPORT

Residents of Arizona Rim Country have 24-hour access to the Payson Airport (Payson Aviation), an uncontrolled airport. Payson Aviation supports approximately 30,000 operations each year of propeller and jet engine airplanes, helicopter and motorized glider activities on its lighted 5,500 foot runway. Continuous services provided at the airport or adjacent industrial air park include fuel sales, aircraft maintenance, hangers, tie-downs, flight instruction, scenic flights, charter service, restaurant, and an aircraft fly-in campground. The airport hosts a Spring Aero Fair, various fly-ins, Civil Air Patrol Squadron, EAA Chapter, local pilots' association and an adjacent residential air park.

RIM COUNTRY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Rim Country Regional Chamber of Commerce is organized for the purpose of advancing the working partnership of business; to enhance the ability of its members to conduct their individual businesses successfully; and to improve the economic well-being of all citizens of the Rim Country and the surrounding area.

The Rim Country Regional Chamber of Commerce has grown to serve the communities of Star Valley, Rye, and Christopher Creek, as well as Payson, Pine, Strawberry, and Young. The Chamber's office, located at the corner of Hwy. 87 and Main Street in Payson, incorporates a large Visitor Center



WORLD CLASS ARTISTS: Arizona Rim Country is blessed with a long list of internationally recognized artists. Because of its beautiful environment and peaceful allure, many western artists have made the area their home over the years. It is currently home for many two-dimensional fine artists who work in all mediums: sculpture, woodworking, jewelry and pottery. In addition, the area supports other "arts." Nationally known performing artists present several professional concerts annually. The Payson Choral Society presents semi-annual concerts and is comprised of 50 semi-professional voices. The Rim Civic Orchestra also gives six performances annually, many in the open air of Payson parks. Individual groups in the area include many arts and craft guilds. The Tonto Community Concert Series provides Broadway-quality acts for a nominal fee.

where the professional staff and knowledgeable volunteers answer your questions and help you select the visitor or newcomer information you need. Last year, the Chamber responded to over 30,000 requests for information. The Visitor Centers in Payson and Pine/Strawberry greeted over 50,000 tourists representing most of the 50 United States and over 33 countries.

The Chamber and its approximately 400 members play a large role in Arizona Rim Country's present and future success. Its function is to facilitate the progress and growth that is inevitable if the area is to continue to prosper, and to help the community leaders and the business community manage and control that growth so it best serves the needs of the residents.

You will find the Chamber involved

Arizona Rim Country is known. With the emphasis on planning, they are taking the necessary steps to encourage both business retention and economic expansion within the parameters of controlled growth.

A top priority for Payson is maintaining an adequate water supply for a growing population. The town of Payson is working with the SRP, and the Bureau of Land Management with the agreement on the C.C. Cragin Reservoir, to assure the long term water supply.

HEALTHCARE

One important measure of any community is its health care system. Our very lives depend upon it. Payson is fortunate to possess a quality healthcare system comprised of its hospital, Payson Regional

consists of medical professionals and specialists in most fields, including: Anesthesia, Cardiology, Dentistry, Dermatology, Emergency Medicine, Family Practice, General Practice, General Surgery, Gynecology, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopedic Surgery, Otolaryngology, Pathology, Pediatrics, Plastic Surgery, Podiatry, Psychology, Pulmonology, Radiation Oncology; Rehabilitation, Sports Medicine, Radiology, and Urology.

Emergency Services: Emergency Services at PRMC are considered to be the finest in care and expertise in our region. The Center provides up to date equipment, experienced support staff and knowledgeable, caring physicians. The 10-bed Emergency Department is equipped to handle most types of serious illnesses, accidents or family emergencies. The



in a wide variety of activities that help to facilitate communication, education, and understanding of the importance of measured and responsible economic development. The Chamber is a very strong advocacy organization representing the business community's views to the town, county, state, and federal governments.

GOVERNMENT

Since its pioneering origins, Arizona Rim Country residents have always demonstrated a spirit of community. Today that spirit is reflected in our institutions of government.

The Towns of Payson and Star Valley have a manager/council form of government with a mayor, council members, and a town manager. Pine, Strawberry and Christopher Creek are governed by the three-member Gila County Board of Supervisors.

Both government entities keep an especially watchful eye over our natural resources and the healthy environment for which

Medical Center (PRMC), its long-term assistive centers, Payson Care Center, Rim Country Health and Retirement Community, and the Powell House; and it's many competent healthcare professionals including physicians, dentists, podiatrists and allied health providers.

Our recently expanded Medical Center is a 44-licensed bed facility with a 24-hour emergency and trauma center with four operating suites. Payson Regional Medical Center is fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and is licensed by the State of Arizona, Department of Health Services. PRMC's medical staff treats and diagnoses a wide variety of adult and pediatric illnesses and injuries. PRMC constantly strives to provide expanded services to meet the changing healthcare needs of our community. Their intent is to promote the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well being of the residents they serve.

The Rim Country medical community

Center is the base for an air ambulance service, available any time.

Medical Services: General medical services provided by PRMC include cardiology, pulmonology, and gastroenterology. The Medical/Surgical unit has the ability to provide care for fourteen telemetry patients and also has the ability to provide care for the general pediatric population.

Intensive Care Services: PRMC's highly trained staff provide specialized care for critical cardiac, medical and surgical patients in its 7-bed unit.

Surgical Services: The Center strives to make your surgery experience as painless as possible, with your speedy recovery their primary goal. General and specialized surgery is performed on both an outpatient and inpatient basis.

See ad on Page 13 for information on additional support services. Visit their website www.paysonhospital.com or call the Marketing Office directly at (928) 472-1275.



Wherever life takes you, we'll be there, too.

At Payson Regional Medical Center, we offer the diagnostic and treatment capabilities to help maintain your health throughout your life. From Mammography Services to Bone Mineral Density testing, Gynecological Procedures and Obstetrical Services, to Cardiovascular treatments, our line of Women's Services is designed to provide you with the care you need, when you need it.

Payson Regional Medical Center cares about you. We provide Healthy Woman, a free community resource providing educational and interactive monthly programs created by women for women. As a woman, isn't it great to know that the right care from the right people is right here? Call (928) 472-9290 or log onto www.paysonhospital.com.



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PAYSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Payson Unified School District #10 serves the Town of Payson and outlying communities such as Star Valley, Tonto Village, Christopher Creek and the Tonto Apache Reservation. While PUSD covers a vast 554 square miles, U.S. forest service land occupies most of that expanse.

Enrollment for the 2007-2008 school year is for students in six schools: Julia Randall, Payson, and Frontier Elementary Schools (grades K-5), Rim Country Middle School (grades 6-8), Payson High School (grades 9-12) and Payson Center for Success High School (grades 10-12, ages 16-21). Julia Randall Elementary School operates a special needs pre-school. Payson

High School and Payson Center for Success High School hold North Central Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation. Special Education is offered in all federal and state-defined categories in the least restrictive environment.

Curriculum at all Payson schools in the core content areas of reading, writing, math and science is aligned and articulated by grade level with the nationally-recognized Arizona Academic Standards. Instructional strategies and decisions address each student's learning style and employ best practices based on scientifically-based research. The District receives "No Child Left Behind" funding and offers supplemental academic, innovative and prevention programming in all schools.

The statewide AIMS test (Arizona's Instrument to Measure Students) places Payson students at or above the county and state averages in almost every grade and content area tested. Starting with the Class of 2006, all high school students must pass the AIMS test to receive a high school diploma. PUSD administration, faculty and staff are committed to giving struggling and borderline students the extra help they need to master the standards and pass the AIMS test.

An Arizona taxpayer credit up to \$400 per household allows contributions to schools for extracurricular activities. Payson Unified School District raises almost \$200,000 annually from its Credit for Kids campaign for fine arts, sports, special interest clubs, after-school programs, career and cultural trips, and the high school stadium.

All schools except Payson Center for Success have music programs including general music, band, chorus, strings, guitar, and hand bells. Payson High School has a renowned Drama Department. Rim Country Middle School and Payson High School field teams in many sports: football, basketball, track, cross country, wrestling, baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer and golf. PHS currently competes in the state's 4A Conference, Grand Canyon Region, against Flagstaff, Cottonwood, Page and Prescott schools.

Payson Unified School District is a member district of Northern Arizona Vocational Institute of Technology. NAVT funding supports ten top rural Career Technical Education programs at Payson High

THE STRAWBERRY SCHOOLHOUSE CAPER

Fixtures in early Arizona Rim Country schools were, as you might imagine, spartan. In the Strawberry Schoolhouse, for example, they included a few rough wood benches, a potbelly stove, a shelf of books, and slates for writing. Far from a store, the teacher hoarded her chalk like a miser his gold.

One day back in 1886, a piece of chalk disappeared, then another, and another. Next it was an eraser, then the teacher's gold watch left unattended during recess. Suspecting a thief, the students were kept after school and interrogated individually, read the Ten Commandments and sent home with notes. Nobody ever confessed. The teacher eventually left Strawberry Valley. The children grew up and had children of their own.

Fast forward to 1965. After being abandoned and forgotten for over half a century, public-spirited citizens have raised money to restore the Strawberry School and open it as a museum. When carpenters ventured into the attic to set rafters for a new roof, they found the answer to an 80-year-old mystery. In the attic was a pack rat's nest containing bits of glitter and glass, hairpins and coins. And yes, pieces of chalk, an eraser, and a lady's gold watch.



Today the Strawberry Schoolhouse is a treasured landmark and a registered historical site. Besides being a major tourist attraction, area school children now go there to observe authentic demonstrations of such historical activities as butter churning, weaving, and roping. With its paneled wainscoting and wallpaper, the restored schoolhouse stands today as a proud testament to the early settlers' thirst for knowledge. Ask the Chamber volunteers for hours of operation & directions. You will be glad you toured the school.

photos by Chris Picknally

School and three additional CTE programs at Gila County Community College (fire science, nursing assistant and health related occupations).

Visitors and prospective new residents are welcome at Payson schools. Call the District Office at 928-474-2070 to arrange a visit.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The Payson Campus of Gila Community College was built by our citizens to serve the business, workforce, university transfer, and leisure education and training needs of a vibrant and growing community. Tuition rates are very low—offering programs at about 1/5 the traditional university cost—and quality is high. The special flexibility of a community college allows the Payson Campus to respond quickly to stated business, industry, and workforce development training needs. Customized corporate assessment and training can be developed to satisfy the dynamic requirements of technology change and sustainable economic development.

In addition to providing Arizona General Education transfer courses for students wishing to pursue bachelor degrees at Arizona State University (ASU), Northern Arizona University (NAU), and University of Arizona (UofA), the Payson Campus provides significant Career and Technical Education (CTE) in the growing allied health fields, computer technology, business administration and management, nursing assistant, fire science, emergency medical technology, teacher and early childhood education, and registered nursing. A broad array of courses in painting, ceramics, jewelry making, exercise, and creative writing provide for both credit transfer and leisure learning options.

RELIGION

Arizona Rim Country has over 54 churches and temples, which reflect the diversity of our spiritual beliefs. Please request a list of places of worship from the Chamber. 🌄

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Scott Flake



Dennis Fendler, Payson Pro Rodeo Committee

- Ms. Rodeo Arizona Pageant
- Payson Fine Art Show
- Pine/Strawberry Arts & Crafts Fair
- PRCA Spring Rodeo

SUMMER

- 4th of July Celebrations in Payson And Pine
- Rodeo Parade
- Annual World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo
- Concerts Under the Stars
- PAHH Golf Tournament
- Quilt Show - Pine
- Sawdust Festival
- Strawberry Festival

FALL

- Anniversary Green Valley Park
- Annual Gem & Mineral Show
- Annual Gila County Fair
- Annual Quilt Roundup
- Art Show & Sale

- Candlelight Walk – Time Out
- Charity Poker Run
- Old Time Fiddlers' State Championship
- Payson Stampede



Scott Flake

- Swiss Village Christmas Lighting
- Tonto Community Concert Series (Runs September–April)
- Western Heritage Festival and Art in the Park

WINTER

- Electric Light Parade
- Hashknife Pony Express
- Tree Lighting - Pine & Strawberry

For specific dates and times, please consult the Chamber website at www.rimcountrychamber.com or call 1-800-672-9766

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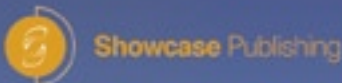
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The Zane Grey Cabin



Every summer after the Dude Fire of 1990, visitors to the Rim Country have noticed the void left by the destruction of the Zane Grey Cabin. A cherished landmark in the wilds of the Mogol-lon Rim near Kohl's Ranch, the Cabin was a hunting lodge and writing retreat for the famous western author who penned many novels about the characters and history he encountered in this part of the state. When the original property was sold as a private subdivision after the fire, many wondered if a replicated Cabin would find a new home in the Rim Country.

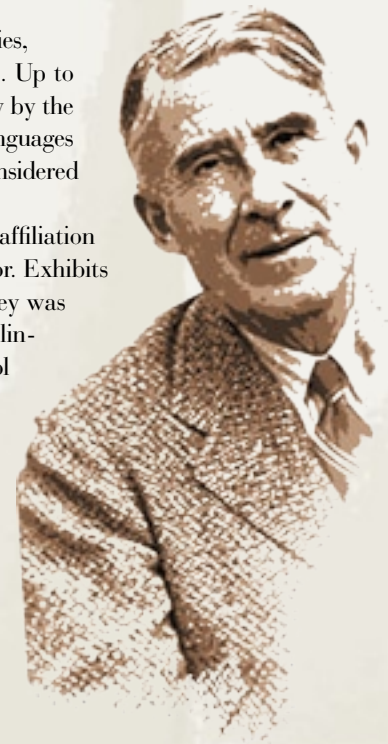
Not unlike the heroes of Grey's novels, a group of local western aficionados banded together for the posterity and benefit of the community. They formed the Zane Grey Cabin Foundation (ZGCF), a non-profit organization whose mission was to raise funds to build a historic replica of the Cabin in Payson. If there are any doubts about the determination of these folks, take a look at what has materialized in Green Valley Park. And don't hold back any whoops and hollers—the Zane Grey Cabin was completed in 2006.

Cabin construction began in August, 2004. Excavation, power supply, foundation and masonry were the first proofs positive that this long-sought hope was moving out of the dream and into the pristine setting of Green Valley Park.

Payson residents are confident that Zane Grey (1872-1939) would be proud of this location because environment was a prominent feature in his novels. Against the backdrop of the western landscape, his valiant cowboys, honorable ranchers, chaste women, noble horses, and unscrupulous outlaws caught the imagination of his readers.

This "father of the western novel" penned 57 westerns, over 200 short stories, ten non-fiction westerns and numerous hunting and fishing articles and books. Up to 130 movies were made from his stories. At his peak, his books were outsold only by the Bible and McGuffey's Reader. Grey's books have been published in over 20 languages and have sold tens of millions of copies. "The Riders of the Purple Sage" is considered the quintessential western classic of all time.

As a mountain town with a rich Western heritage, Payson is proud that its affiliation with this American icon enhances the community's historic and aesthetic flavor. Exhibits in the Cabin reflect this and focus on life as it was during the 1920s when Grey was at home in his Cabin. Tourists will enjoy the setting in the verdant park and linger on the Cabin's panoramic porch that overlooks the sparkling lake. School children, adult learners and history buffs will discover the adventures of the pioneers which inspired Grey to write "Under the Tonto Rim," "To the Last Man" and "Code of the West." The Cabin is expected to attract institutions and organizations such as historical and western societies, schools and colleges, elderhostels and tour excursions. With this exciting endeavor Payson has eagerly retrieved the Zane Grey Country mantle. 🐾



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OUTDOOR



Chris Picknally

In places where Lucy could see the Rim she was astounded and delighted. She had carried away a picture of the colored walls, but now there was a blaze of gold, purple, cerise, scarlet, all the hues of fire. Frost had touched maples, aspens, oaks, with a magic wand. It seemed another and more beautiful forest land that she was entering.
- Under the Tonto Rim

There was a time when “the Beeline” was little more than a single-lane, rutted wagon trail that connected this area with Phoenix. A trip to the cool, pine-scented “Rim” was an arduous, day-long affair. Encountering someone coming from the opposite direction meant backing up to a spot where the road widened.

Then there was Ox Bow Hill, a well-known landmark south of Payson which marks the transition from the lower desert into the pine-juniper covered mountains. To get up the hill, passengers were often unloaded to push, placing rocks under the rear wheels every few feet so the car wouldn’t slip back.

Today the Beeline, more commonly known as Highway 87, is a modern, four-lane divided highway that has won several major environmental excellence design awards.

The 90-minute drive from Phoenix, Scottsdale and other Valley of the Sun cities is one of unrivaled and ever changing magnificence, featuring spectacular rock outcroppings and panoramic vistas. As you travel north, stands of saguaro cactus give way to fields of wildflowers in the spring, trees clad in gold and crimson leaves in fall, and snow-capped peaks in winter. Nearing Payson, you will notice the magnificent Mazatzal Mountains forming the western horizon of Arizona Rim Country. The word Mazatzal is Apache for “rugged” or “rough.”

As you might expect, the “Heart of Arizona” is centrally located in the geographical center of the state. They say Arizona Rim Country is 90 miles from everywhere, and indeed it is 93 miles from the big city amenities of Phoenix, 98 miles from Prescott, 91 miles from Flagstaff (the Gateway to the Grand Canyon), 86 miles from the beautiful red rock country of Sedona, and 90 miles from Show Low.

While there is currently no commercial airline service to Arizona Rim Country, Payson Airport (Payson Aviation) has a 5,500 foot lighted runway and ample taxiways that support some 30,000 operations per year. A “fly-in campground” is adjacent to the runway, and nearby “homes with hangars” offer a unique lifestyle option. The airport can accommodate most corporate jets. Aircraft maintenance is available near the taxiways. Scenic flights will fly you over the forest or to other states.

DOOR Fun

ACCOMODATIONS

From lodges to rustic cabins, independent and national chain hotels to bed and breakfasts, RV parks to campgrounds, lodging options in Arizona Rim Country are both abundant and varied. In fact, there are over 600 hotel rooms in the area. Ask our Visitor Center volunteers for a list, or visit pages 28 and 29 for more information.

Arizona Rim Country offers a wide range of dining establishments, all the way from the popular fast food chains, to local mom-and-pop diners and cafes featuring down-home cooking, to unique gourmet culinary experiences.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

"In places where Lucy could see the Rim she was astounded and delighted. She had carried away a picture of the colored walls, but now there was a blaze of gold, purple, cerise, scarlet, all the hues of fire. Frost had touched maples, aspens, oaks, with a magic wand. It seemed another and more beautiful forest land that she was entering."

Zane Grey's descriptive words aptly capture the robust colors of autumn in Arizona Rim Country. But this area is spectacular in every season. In the winter a snow-blanketed Rim provides a sparkling holiday backdrop

and spectacular cross country skiing. In the spring a meadow of wildflowers is the ideal setting to discover a rare bird or two. The cool, whispering pines of summer provide a much needed reprieve from the sizzling desert heat of the Phoenix area.

With three national forests combining to form a woodland area the size of Massachusetts, the outdoors can truly be called great in Arizona Rim Country.

Larger than many nations, this magnificent land is a haven for campers, hikers, joggers, trekkers, fishermen, hunters, golfers, tennis players, equestrians, water and cross-

THE WORLD'S OLDEST CONTINUOUS RODEO

Arizona Rim Country is where rodeo began. Known since its inception in 1884 as "August Doin's", the Annual World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo in the United States is a world famous event that will celebrate its 124th consecutive year in 2008. Other annual rodeos held in Arizona Rim Country include the Payson Spring Rodeo and the action-packed High School rodeo.

The first rodeos in Arizona Rim Country were held to provide local ranchers and cowhands a chance to get together and compare their roping skills and cow ponies during the annual "down time" before the big fall roundup. There were only a couple of events in those early rodeos, but it was not long before cowboys from all over the state were showing up to compete in new events like bronc busting, bull riding, and steer roping.

Early Payson rodeos weren't held in fancy arenas. In fact, the original venue was a meadow near the intersection of Main Street and Highway 87/the Beeline. Wagons, and later autos, created barriers to form the 'arena'. An extra attraction: gambling tables were set up in the open street, especially at the intersection of McLane Road and Main Street.

But there was a wholesome side to those early rodeos as well. As local historian Jinx Pyle put it, they became a week-long celebration that "rivalled Christmas as a time when family and friends gathered for reunions and visiting." Area ranchers would begin preparation weeks in advance so food would be ready to feed all the visitors and relatives.



photo courtesy of Dennis Fendler, Payson Pro Rodeo Committee

Still held the third weekend in August, once named the country's Best Small Rodeo, (according to the Professional Rodeo Cowboy's Association which sanctions the event) this event attracts the best of the best from all over the world to compete for substantial prize money. The week-long festivities include an old-fashioned parade, many rodeo dances, and other rodeo-related activities as well as the four rodeo performances themselves. You won't want to miss the fun, the good times, and the Annual World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo!

OUR APACHE HERITAGE



The earliest inhabitants of Arizona Rim Country were a people known as the Mogollons, members of a Native American tribe that moved into Arizona from New Mexico in about 300 B.C. Living in loosely connected villages, they made clothing from fur and feathers, hunted by bow and arrow, and grew corn, squash, and beans.

By 1500 A.D., the Mogollon culture had been absorbed by two tribes new to the area, the Hohokams from the south and the Pueblos from the east.

It wasn't long after the Mogollons faded from the scene that the Apaches arrived. An athletic people more interested in hunting than gardening, they lived wherever their bows and arrows led them. The Apaches were here when the Spanish Conquistadors passed through, and they were here when Union soldiers arrived to secure the region from Confederate intrusion. In fact, the soldiers dubbed this area "Apacheria".

Once the Civil War ended, these soldiers turned their attention to making the Rim area safe for miners and ranchers. A major campaign was launched, including soldiers from many forts, camps, and posts. Troops radiated out from the Tonto Basin in a thorough search for "hostile" Indians. With superior firepower and overwhelming numbers of mounted cavalry, they easily defeated the Apaches who were forcibly herded to reservations in the south.

With the capture of Geronimo in 1886, the guards were removed from the San Carlos reservation. Reduced from thousands, the 50 or so Tonto Apaches began the long walk back to their Arizona Rim Country home. More peaceful than other Apache tribes, they settled once again in the area and began farming. One of their chiefs recalled that in the early days in Payson many cattails grew in the rivers and streams. The returning Apaches used them for medicine, food, and religious ceremonies.

The tribe had become known as the Tonto Apaches. The word "Tonto" means crazy or foolish, and was given to these Native American settlers by other Apaches because of their willingness to live near the white man. After a relentless effort, the descendants of these peaceful farmers were given their own 85 acre reservation in 1972 on the southern outskirts of Payson.

Today they number over 100 members, and their Mazatzal Casino, on reservation land, is the largest non-government employer in Arizona Rim Country. The casino payroll alone provides over two million dollars a year into the local economy, and the tribe has become a major contributor to Payson community charities and events. Casino revenues are used to provide much needed housing, establish scholarship funds, and generally improve the health, education, and welfare of the Tonto Apache people.

In 1999, the Tonto Apaches signed an Initiative of Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service that will provide the tribe with 272 additional acres through a federal land exchange. The land will be used to provide much needed homes for the tribe's young people and their future families.

Preserving tribal heritage is of great importance. The elders of the Tonto Apache tribe are doing their very best to sustain both their language and culture by passing old customs and beliefs down to the tribe's younger members.

country skiers, and outdoor enthusiasts of all persuasions.

Forest Service campgrounds in the Mogollon Rim area are plentiful, and open camping is allowed in many areas of the forest. Almost all of the campgrounds are first-come, first-served. Ask our Visitor Center volunteers for fact sheets.

Arizona Rim Country has hundreds of miles of unpaved roads, including one of the most scenic stretches of roadway in the state. (42 miles of the old Rim Road between Highway 87 near Strawberry, and Arizona 260 near Forest Lakes)

In addition, there are literally thousands of miles of trails for hikers, backpackers, mountain bikers and horseback riders, including several that are accessible from the Pine Trailhead at the southern edge of Pine. Many trails in the area date back to the 1800s when they linked early homesteads and ranches. Maps are available at the Visitor Center or the Payson Ranger Station, one mile east of Payson on Arizona 260.

With many trout streams and creeks, plus the seven Rim lakes, fishing is a rewarding pastime in Arizona Rim Country. Maps and detailed information are available at the Chamber's Visitor Center. Call 1-800-6-PAYSON (1-800-672-9766).

Fishermen and other visitors will also enjoy visiting the two fish hatcheries operated by the Arizona Game and Fish Department northeast of Payson. The closest, Tonto Creek Hatchery, is about 25 miles from Payson at the end of Forest Road 289. This hatchery produces about 250,000 catchable trout per mile, per year. By comparison, a regular trout stream can only produce 225 catchable trout per mile, per year.

The Mogollon Rim lakes include:

Bear Canyon Lake, a fisherman's favorite. The 60-acre lake holds rainbows, brookies, cutthroat and arctic grayling. A steep trail limits access to the hardy, just right for keeping the crowds down. The contrast between the blue water and green pines is absolutely stunning;

Black Canyon Lake, where bank casting after rainbows and browns is a productive way to spend a day. The lake has a paved ramp and a campground nearby. One veteran angler says he has never been "skunked" here.

Blue Ridge Reservoir, a narrow man-made lake that covers 200 acres when full. Rainbows and browns abound in the lake. Always a good bet early in the spring.

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Chris Picknally

Chevelon Lake, is one of the largest but most difficult to access. Its 200 acres, however, wind through ruggedly beautiful canyon walls. The biggest fish on top of the Rim live in Chevelon.

Knoll Lake, at nearly 8,000 feet, covers 75 acres and features stocked rainbows and browns, plus a campground. Try fishing from the shoreline that runs from the boat ramp toward the island. The cove just beyond is good, too.

Willow Springs Lake, has outstanding access, a paved ramp, and a campground nearby. Fish the upper ends of the two long coves that form the “Y” in the lake for rainbows and brown trout.

Woods Canyon Lake, dammed in 1956, is one of the most popular recreation areas in all of Arizona featuring boat rentals, picnic area, five campgrounds, and nature trails. The lake is stocked with catchable trout. The best fishing is in the spring and fall.

Roosevelt Lake, while not a Rim lake, is one of Arizona’s favorite water playgrounds. Located 35 miles southeast of Payson, it covers 19,000 surface acres and is 25 miles long and up to two miles wide. The lake is home to large and small mouth bass, crappie, channel and flathead catfish, and is a playground for water skiing, sailing, wind surfing, jet skiing, and swimming. Camping facilities abound in the area.

Hunters find Arizona Rim Country a

mecca of game in season. Quail, duck, elk, deer, javelina, big horn sheep, turkey, antelope, bear and mountain lion hunting are all permitted. For permit regulations, call the Arizona Game and Fish Department at (602) 942-3000 or visit the Payson Ranger Station. Local sporting goods stores and the Chamber have maps and information.

For rock hounds, Arizona Rim Country is a mineralogist’s dream come true. Chert, quartz, and gem-quality geodes are plentiful, and just about any prospector or rock club member can put you onto a scatter of handsome red jasper or agate.

A round of golf in the crisp, clean mountain air is also a delight. Options include the Payson Golf Course which is open to public,

the private courses at Chaparral Pines, which is ranked eighth among the state’s hundreds of outstanding courses, and The Rim Club, which opened in 1999 and may be rated even higher.

Most visitors find time to visit the Tonto Natural Bridge State Park on Highway 87 between Payson and Pine/Strawberry. Sculpted of calcium carbonate deposits by Pine Creek over a period of one million years, the largest travertine bridge in the world is 183 feet high with a tunnel width of 150 feet and a tunnel length of 400 feet. The area had once been used by the Tonto Apaches as a seasonal camp. The Bridge only closes on Christmas day. There is a low admission fee. Call 928-476-2264 for information.

Arizona Rim Country is an archaeological gold mine. Shoofly Village archaeological site is an Indian ruin on Houston Mesa Road just east of the small horse community of Mesa del Caballo. It is a partially excavated 87 room site that was occupied between A.D. 1000 and 1250, by people related to the Hohokam and Salado cultures. An additional 50 archaeological sites have been identified in 2,000 acres of national forest around Payson.

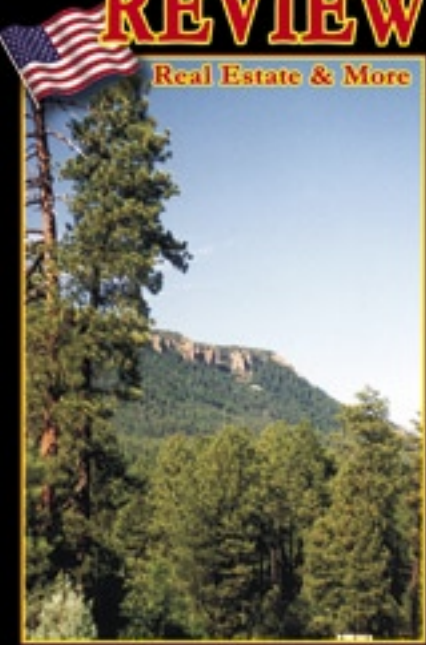
Whispering Hope Ranch is located three miles east and two miles south of Christopher Creek. The ranch was established in 1998 to provide a tranquil and compassionate healing environment for individuals who are physically, emotionally, mentally or spiritually challenged, and to provide a home for a diverse group of animals who have come from difficult circumstances. The ranch is open daily for guided tours at 11 AM and 1:30 PM. Call ahead for reservations (928) 478-0339.

4x4 back country excitement can be enjoyed by arranging a guided tour. You get to take pictures, bounce along on silent trails and gasp at our area’s beauty. Ask the Chamber for brochures on this and other outdoor activities. 🐾

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Avondale	105	Holbrook	98	Prescott	98
Bisbee	280	Kingman	234	Roosevelt Lake	50
Blythe, CA	248	Kohl’s Ranch	17	Sedona	85
Buckeye	123	Las Vegas	363	Show Low	90
Camp Verde	56	Mesa	75	Snowflake	85
Christopher Creek	22	Mogollon Rim	32	Springerville	135
Cottonwood	72	Needles, CA	298	Star Valley	4
Flagstaff	90	Page	227	Strawberry	18
Forest Lakes	40	Painted Desert	120	Tempe	84
Grand Canyon	170	Parker	260	Tucson	184
Globe	82	Pheonix	90	Winslow	91
Goodyear	106	Pine	15	Woods Canyon Lake	32
Heber-Overgaard	54	Pinetop-Lakeside	95	Yuma	277

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The Tonto National FOREST



Scott Flake

The Tonto National Forest is the largest national forest in the southwest. President Theodore Roosevelt issued a proclamation creating it in 1905. The original tract of some 1.1 million acres, predominantly woodland (chaparral, piñon, juniper) and Ponderosa pine forest, is located below the Mogollon Rim and above the 4,000 foot elevation.

Today the Tonto National Forest has grown to 2.8 million acres maintained and operated under the auspices of the U.S. Forest Service. Maps, brochures, and friendly advice are available at the Payson Ranger Station located on the south side of Arizona 260 between Payson and Star Valley. (928-474-7900) 🐾



**Payson Area
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for Humanity®**

Payson Area Habitat for Humanity, Inc. is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian organization that provides decent, affordable housing for low-income Payson residents who are unable to obtain conventional financing. A partnership is formed with selected homeowners who perform 300-500 hours of "sweat equity" on the construction of their home. Community involvement through a variety of volunteer opportunities is the strength of the organization and to the families we serve. Get involved, get hooked, build houses, build hope. For information call 928-474-0330.




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CAMPGROUND GUIDE

Developed: Provides water, parking, and toilet facilities. Most require reservations.

Semi-Developed: May provide water, parking, and toilet facilities. May require reservations.

Group Campgrounds: Can accommodate large groups of people for overnight camping. May require reservations.

Public Campgrounds: Open to general public on a first come first camp basis.

**For Reservations: National Forest Recreation
Reservation System: 1-877-444-6777 or www.reserveusa.com**

Christopher Creek

Developed/Group 877-444-6777
21 miles east of Payson on Hwy 260. 43 campsites with tables, fire-pits, grills, handicapped access toilet & other vault toilets; drinking water and trash collection. Roads and spurs are paved. Creek runs through the campground with cool spots for wading and fishing. Open mid-May through mid-October.

East Verde Crossing

Public Campground No Reservation Required
5 miles North of Payson on Hwy 87, then Left on Forest Road 622.

Flowing Springs

Public Campground No Reservation Required
3 miles north of Payson. Right 1/2 mile on Forest Road 272.

Houston Mesa

Developed/ Group 468-7135
Hwy 87, two miles north of Payson. Turn Right on Houston Mesa Rd. Within the next 13 miles are several campgrounds: 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Crossings, Water Wheel & Verde Glen (all are Public Campgrounds)

OX Bow Estates

Developed 474-2042
3 miles south of Payson on Hwy 87. Turn West at sign.

Payson Campground

Developed 472-2267
808 E. Hwy 260, Payson AZ 85541

Ponderosa Campground

Developed 877-444-6777
12 miles east of Payson on Hwy 260. 61 units with tables, grills, drinking water, vault toilets, nature trail and amphitheater. Spaces can handle up to 60' trailers. Open the year round. Hosts are available.

Sharp Creek

Semi Developed 877-444-6777
23 miles northeast of Payson, 1.5 miles east of Christopher Creek. 28 units with tables, grills, drinking water, vault toilets and nature trails. Spaces can handle up to 45' trailers. No more than 2 vehicles per unit. No more than 8 people per unit. 3 group units (50 people) Open mid-May through mid-October. Hosts are available.

Sink Hole

Semi Developed 535-4481
Located at Willow Springs Lake.

Upper Tonto Creek

Developed No Reservation Required
17 miles east of Payson on Hwy 260 to Forest Road 289. 9 sites with tables, fire pits, grills, drinking water, vault toilets and garbage collection. Some sites accommodate trailers up to 16'. Access to Derrick & Horton Creek Trails. Fishing on Tonto & Horton Creeks. Popular campground. Open mid-May through October.

Woods Canyon Lake


Developed/Group 877-444-6777
Woods Canyon Lake, Northeast of Payson on Hwy. 260 & Forest Service Rd. 300.

Ranger Districts For Campground Information

Apache-Sitgreaves Forest 535-4481
(for Wood's Canyon recreation area)
Happy Jack (Long Valley) 527-3640
Heber (Willow Springs Lake) 535-4481
Payson Ranger Station 474-7900
Pleasant Valley 462-3311

Mobile Home & Rv Parks

Cy's Shady Haven RV Park 474-8222
3 Miles east on Hwy 260 to Valley Rd. in Star Valley.


Forest Lakes Lodge  535-4727
Hwy. 260 | Mile post 288.6 | Forest Lakes

Forest Lakes Touring Center  535-4047
Hwy. 260 | Mile post 288.5 | Cabins & RV park.

Houston Creek RV Park 474-2636
4 miles east on Hwy. 260 in Star Valley

Lamplighter Mobile & RV Park  474-5048
3 miles east on Hwy. 260 in Star Valley

Lazy D Ranch RV & Apartments  474-2442
3 miles east on Hwy. 260 in Star Valley

Oxbow Estates RV Park  474-2042
3 miles south of Payson on Hwy. 87 | A Good Sam Mobile Park.

Payson RV Park & Campground  472-2267
808 E. Hwy. 260 Payson | Pool/Spa | Pets welcome

Sky Run RV Resort & Storage  474-4728
HC5 Box 37 | Payson

Star Vale Mobile Home Park 474-4242
Four miles east of Payson on Hwy. 260 | Age-qualified park | Well maintained

Twin Lakes Mobile Home Park 472-6532
903 Granite Dells Rd. | Payson

 - Pets Welcome

NOTE: All phone numbers are area code 928 unless noted.



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877-474-9800

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800-465-4329

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474-0185
800-408-2442

Mazatzal Hotel and Casino FITNESS CENTER

Mile marker 251 Hwy. 87
P. O. Box 1820, Payson, AZ 85547
800-777-7529

Motel 6

101 E. Phoenix St., Payson
474-4526
800-466-8356

Paysonglo Lodge

1005 S. Beeline Hwy., Payson
474-2382
800-772-9766

Super 8 Inn & Suites

809 E. Hwy. 260, Payson
474-5241, 800-888-9828

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2341 Quarterhorse Trail
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Christopher Creek Lodge & Motel

21 miles east on Hwy. 260 Mile Post 274
478-4300

Creekside Cabins & Steakhouse

21 miles east of Payson on Hwy. 260
478-4389


Elk Haven Cabins

3 miles east of Christopher Creek on Colcord Rd.
478-4582
888-355-4131.

Forest Lakes Lodge

Hwy. 260 Mile Post 288.6, Forest Lakes
535-4727

guide

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Forest Lakes Touring Center, Cabins & RV Park

Hwy. 260 & Mule Springs Trail, Forest Lakes
Mile Marker 288.5
535-4047

Kohl's Ranch CABINS ON THE CREEK

17 miles east on Hwy. 260
478-4211, 800-331-5645

Mountain Meadows Cabins

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478-4415

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478-0002

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Strawberry, AZ 85544
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Verde River Rock House Bed & Breakfast

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Note: All phone numbers are area code
928 unless otherwise noted.

Dining Out

A GUIDE TO RIM COUNTRY RESTAURANTS

A - Asian C - Coffee House FM - Family FD - Fine Dining I - Italian L - Lounge
M - Mexican PF - Mexican QS - Quick Service SB - Sports Bar S - Steaks

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FAM/M..... 474-3111
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FD/S/L..... 474-7455
620 E. Hwy. 260
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Fireside Espresso

C..... 474-6200
614 N. Beeline Hwy.
Espresso coffee, baked goods and fruit smoothies. Internet connections. Mon-Fri 5:30am-8pm Sat. & Sun 5:30am-11pm.

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FAM..... 532-2266
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FAM..... 474-7411
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FAM/L/S/PF..... 472-6246
202 W. Main St.
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QS..... 474-3698
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QS..... 468-1863
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